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**REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER**



**OF HEALTH**

and

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**INSPECTOR**

**FOR THE YEAR**

**1959**





# **REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **A N N U A L   R E P O R T**

of the

# **Public Health Department**

**FOR THE YEAR 1959**

Chairman of the Council : Councillor R. J. DICKENS

Vice-Chairman of the Council : Councillor W. J. STRANZ

### **PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE**

Chairman : Councillor J. H. TAYLOR

Vice-Chairman : Councillor E. HARRIS

#### **Committee Members :**

Councillor H. G. Bayliss	Councillor G. E. Parton
„ E. J. T. Cole	„ A. Poole
„ R. J. Dickens	„ H. D. Spencer
„ D. J. Harber	„ A. P. Wells
„ S. V. Hill	„ A. E. Wharrad

### **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the LOCAL AUTHORITY**

W. DRAWNEEK, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health  
and Assistant County Medical Officer.

G. H. CHAMPION, Cert. "S.I.B.",  
Chief Public Health Inspector,  
Meat and Food Inspector,  
Inspector under the Shops Acts.

G. H. SMITH, Cert. "S.I.B.",  
Additional Public Health Inspector,  
Meat and Food Inspector.

R. HILL, Cert. "S.I.B.",  
Additional Public Health Inspector,  
Meat and Food Inspector.

Mrs. J. Lewis — Clerk

Mrs. C. H. Wheeler — Clerk

Mrs. E. N. Andrews — Clerk

Mrs. M. Leeman, C.W.S., Housing Welfare Officer.



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# ***ANNUAL REPORT***

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**

## To the Chairman and Members of the REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1959.

During the year many environmental health matters were considered by the council. It remains as true today as in the early days of the sanitary era that the basic essentials of a healthy environment are an adequate supply of clean, wholesome water and food, hygienic disposal of waste and adequate housing. To these must be added clean air.

The supply of drinking water is adequate in quantity for all parts of the district, but it still remains almost totally devoid of fluoride, a mineral essential for the sound development of teeth and the prevention of their premature decay. This gives rise to a high incidence of dental disease in the area, which coupled with a serious shortage of dentists leaves an appalling picture of dental ill health. In Redditch it is rare, even in children to encounter a full set of healthy teeth.

During the summer months there was an unduly long period of drought. Water levels fell and special problems arose in relation to wells. Extensive cracking and shrinking took place in the surrounding soil and where these cracks ran into the walls there was a danger of contamination when the water level rose again. Warnings were issued to those few persons owning wells, to boil the water before drinking and detailed inspections were carried out of all those involved, including sampling and tests for fitness for drinking. I am pleased to be able to report that not a single case of illness was notified that could be attributed to the drinking of unfit water. There is very little need for the drinking of well water in the Urban District today. The piped water supply has been extended steadily over the years and we hope it is not too far off when it is finally unnecessary for anyone to rely upon well water for drinking purposes.

Progress is being made in improving standards of food hygiene but we still have a long way to go. Standards in school kitchens and factory canteens are now quite high. Food poisoning is not occurring on a dramatic scale from communal feeding, but there are many minor outbreaks confined to individual families which pass very often without a doctor being called or the Health Department being notified. The emphasis in the work of the department is changing from advising on premises and equipment to dealing with personal education of food handlers. The value of the B.B.C. programmes and the efforts of the Central Food Hygiene Laboratory are being felt. Food handlers are gradually becoming more receptive and appreciative of local health education both individually and in groups. Not a week goes by without some request being received for advice or for a member of the department to give a talk to an interested group.

The disposal of waste in the area leaves much to be desired, the sewage disposal system is overloaded and inadequate for the needs of a growing town. A new sewage works extension at the main works at Ipsley has been planned, but attention still needs to be given to the smaller works, particularly those at Feckenham.

Refuse collection is still being done by the method of tipping dustbin contents into open baths and carrying these to the vehicles in so doing unavoidably scattering refuse on the way. To be condemned is the unhygienic practice of dustmen "picking" from the garbage. The frequency of collection is far from sufficient, it is being left for a fortnight and even on occasions three weeks before collection with obvious nuisance from flies and smells. I am pleased to report that the council have considered this unsatisfactory state of affairs and have agreed in principle to a weekly refuse collection and a system of dustless loading. They have also agreed to the provision of washing facilities in the vehicles so that dustmen are not forced to sit on the tail board of the vehicles with hands contaminated from their "pickings" to eat sandwiches during the breaks between their work.



These new improvements are to be implemented as soon as the labour difficulties and the cost of capital outlay permit.

Until this year refuse disposal in the area was by open tipping, the refuse being finally covered only at the end of operations at the site. The sites chosen consisted of small pits and scattered hollows, each too small and unsuitable for hygienic tipping. Health hazards existed and nuisances were caused by flies, rats and smoke from fires caused by spontaneous combustion or by deliberate firing by well meaning but ill-informed citizens who in so doing thought they were helping to destroy the rats and flies and reduce the smell of putrefaction.

I am pleased to report that the council have taken the step of changing over to controlled tipping, whereby the working face and the top of the tipped refuse is covered daily. This reduces any nuisance to a minimum. Research is being carried out into devising a method of reducing dust nuisance at the tipping face, when the vehicles are being unloaded. Methods of composting refuse and sewage sludge were investigated, but it was found after a long and careful enquiry that such a scheme was out of the question in Redditch.

The department is well ahead with its slum clearance programme. A great deal more emphasis is being placed on improving, maintaining and converting old property. Special attention has been given to the needs of the elderly and the disabled. Provision of old person's bungalows is going on and an effort is being made to ensure that these are distributed throughout the area. A warden scheme has been introduced.

Many individual sources of air pollution have been dealt with by the department. A great deal of public education is needed before widespread appreciation of the need for clean air is achieved. A growing problem in Redditch is the belching out of black clouds of diesel exhaust by heavy vehicles passing through. This is particularly bad with vehicles pulling away uphill from a standing start.

The Council made an application to the Minister for Delegation of Health and Welfare Functions under the Local Government Act, 1958. This was not granted, but a proviso was made that should the size of the area change appreciably re-consideration could be given before the elapse of the normal ten years required before a second application could otherwise be made.

During the year there has been a growth of public awareness and interest in health matters, leading to better co-operation with the Health Department, which increased the work but has made it more satisfying.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. DRAWNEEK,

Medical Officer of Health.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

AREA — 12,059 Acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population,  
mid 1959 — 33,840

Number of inhabited houses, end of 1959	—	10,570
„ „ 1958	—	10,332
„ „ 1949	—	8,198

Rateable Value — £445,863

Sum represented by the Penny Rate — £1,793

## VITAL STATISTICS

### ESTIMATED POPULATION.

1958	—	33,120
1959	—	33,840

**Population figures as quoted from the Annual Reports of Medical Officer of Health.**

Year	Population				
1901	...	...	...	...	13,493
1911	...	...	...	...	15,463
1921	...	...	...	...	16,530
1931	...	...	...	...	19,280
1939	...	...	...	...	22,760
1945	...	...	...	...	25,470
1950	...	...	...	...	29,110
1951	...	...	...	...	29,184 — Census
1952	...	...	...	...	30,360
1953	...	...	...	...	30,490
1954	...	...	...	...	30,710
1955	...	...	...	...	30,930
1956	...	...	...	...	31,390
1957	...	...	...	...	32,220
1958	...	...	...	...	33,120
1959	...	...	...	...	33,840

The trend of growth of population continues; the estimated population has increased by 720 to 33,840. The further removed from a census year, the less accurate estimated population figures become. The last census was in 1951 and the next is due in 1961. This estimate is as far removed from a census figure as it is usual to go, and so must be interpreted accordingly; minor differences between local and national figures being interpreted with reserve.



LIVE BIRTHS

(Figures in brackets are 1958 totals).

LIVE BIRTHS			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	268	259	527
Illegitimate ...	13	14	27
Total ...	281 (280)	273 (246)	554 (526)

Birth Rate (Births per 1,000 population) :—

Area Comparability Factor : 0.95

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Crude :	16.26	15.89	17.63	15.88	16.37
Standardised :	15.81	15.41	17.10	15.09	15.56

Illegitimacy Rate (Total live illegitimate births per 1,000 total live births) :—

1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
46.51	46.18	42.63	42.08	25.84	13.91	42.25	38.02	48.73

Percentage of illegitimate live births of total births : 4.9%

STILL BIRTHS.

STILL BIRTHS			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	5	7	12
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1
Total ...	6 (6)	7 (5)	13 (11)

Still-Birth Rate (Still-births per 1,000 live and still births) :—

1959	1958	1957	1949
22.92	20.48	30.77	0.46

Total live and still births : 567

The birth rate has increased from 15.09 in 1958 to 15.56 in 1959. The still-birth rate has increased from 20.48 in 1958 to 22.92 in 1959.

Illegitimacy has increased. The percentage of illegitimate live births of total live births has gone up from 3.8% in 1958 to 4.9% in 1959. This is a reflection of the increase in teenage promiscuity. One cannot help but feel that far too little attention is paid to moral standards. It does not help when so much stress is laid in radio and television plays, in the cinema and popular literature on infidelity as the theme. It is becoming more and more commonly reported that boys and girls of fifteen and sixteen are indulging in sexual intercourse and their companions look on them with a sort of hero worship, regarding any moral condemnation as being old fashioned. Too much emphasis is being placed on the physical aspects of sex and far too little notice is being taken of the importance of love, companionship and the building of a happy secure family.

The consequent undermining of stable secure family life is one of the major factors in producing the present upward trend in mental ill-health.

**DEATHS.**

(1958 figures in brackets).

DEATHS		
M	F	Total
188 (145)	142 (146)	330 (291)

**Death Rate (Deaths per 1,000 population) :—**

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Crude :	9.93	9.62	9.47	8.79	9.75
Standardised :	10.62	11.15	10.98	10.55	11.7
Area Comparability Factor : 1.20					

The principal causes of death were as follows :—

1. Disease of the heart and circulatory system (including intra-cranial vascular lesions)	49.09% of all deaths. (43.99%)
2. Cancer (all forms) and other malignant disease	17.57% (20.62%)
3. Respiratory Disease (excluding T.B.)	16.06% (13.4%)
4. Road and other Accidents	3.94% (3.09%)
5. Tuberculosis	.91% (1.31%)

**MATERNAL MORTALITY.**

There was one death due to causes associated with childbirth.

**INFANT AND NEONATAL MORTALITY.**

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	6	7	13
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Total ...	6	7	13

DEATHS OF INFANTS WITHIN THE FIRST FOUR WEEKS			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	5	4	9
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Total ...	5	4	9

**Infant and Neonatal Mortality Rates**

	1959	1958	1957	1949
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	23.47	22.81	22.89	35.5
Legitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births	24.67	20.91	23.89	33.64
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births ... ..	—	1.9	—	27.00
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	—	15.4	19.37	—

**Causes of Infant Deaths.**

(N.B.—Neonatal deaths in brackets).

	1959	1958	1957
Prematurity ... ..	(3)	(4)	3(3)
Broncho-Pneumonia ... ..	1(4)	3(1)	2(1)
Congenital Malformation ... ..	—	1	4(4)
Asphyxia ... ..	—	(1)	1(1)
Heart Failure ... ..	—	—	1(1)
Adrenal and peri-adrenal haemorrhage ... ..	—	—	1(1)
Hydrocephalus ... ..	(1)	—	1
Multiple Injuries ... ..	—	1	—
Malignant Disease ... ..	—	1	—
Atelectasis ... ..	(3)	(3)	—
Coma ... ..	—	(1)	—
Respiratory Failure ... ..	—	(1)	—
Poisoning by Gas Mains ... ..	1	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage ... ..	(2)	—	—

DEATHS BY AGE		
Age in years	1959 %	1958 %
Under 1 ...	5.71	4.57
1 – 14 ...	0.57	1.4
15 – 24 ...	0.57	2.11
25 – 64 ...	29.71	28.52
65 and over	63.43	63.45

The death rate has increased from 10.58 in 1958 to 11.7 in 1959. The infant mortality rate has increased from 22.8 in 1958 to 23.47 in 1959. The main causes of the increase were broncho-pneumonia and atelectasis.



# CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT, 1959

CAUSE OF DEATH	M	F	Total	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Pop. 1959	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Pop. 1958
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	2	1	3	0.088	0.06
2. Other forms of Tu- berculosis ...	0	0	0	0	0.03
3. Syphilitic Disease ...	0	0	0	0	0
4. Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infec- tions ...	0	0	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis...	0	0	0	0	0
8. Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0
9. Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	0	0	0	0	0
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	13	9	22	0.65	0.181
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus ...	7	2	9	0.27	0.363
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	0	3	3	0.088	0.211
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	0	1	1	0.08	0
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	7	6	13	0.384	1.112
15. Leukaemia, Aleukae- mia ...	1	1	2	0.059	0.03
16. Diabetes ...	1	1	2	0.059	0
17. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	23	25	48	1.42	1.178
18. Coronary Disease, Angina ...	29	10	39	1.152	0.844
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	3	4	7	0.206	1.902
20. Other Heart Disease	10	10	20	0.591	1.902
21. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	26	26	52	1.536	0.393
22. Influenza ...	1	1	2	0.059	0
23. Pneumonia ...	30	26	56	1.654	1.902
24. Bronchitis ...	3	2	5	0.148	0.181
25. Other Disease of the Respiratory System	8	6	14	0.414	0.093
26. Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum ...	0	1	1	0.08	0.06
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	0	0	0	0	0
28. Nephritis and Neph- rosis ...	7	2	9	0.266	0.06
29. Hyperplasia of Pros- tate ...	0	0	0	0	0
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ...	0	1	1	0.08	0
31. Congenital Malform- ations ...	0	0	0	0	0.06
32. Other defined and ill- defined diseases ...	6	6	12	0.355	0.435
33. Motor Vehicle Acci- dents ...	5	2	7	0.206	0.181
34. All other Accidents...	1	1	2	0.059	0.091
35. Suicide ...	5	2	7	0.206	0.091
36. Homicide and Opera- tions of War ...	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ...	188 (162)	149 (188)	337 (350)	10.11	11.36

# General Provision of Health Services

## (a) CLINICS AND TREATMENT SERVICES.

Clinic	Situation	Time of Holding
Redditch Infant Welfare Centre (Vaccination and Immunisation Thursday)	Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road	Tuesday, 2 p.m. 2nd and 4th Thursday, 10 a.m.
Batchley Estate Infant Welfare Clinic (Vaccination and Immunisation 2nd and 4th Monday)	Church Hall, Batchley Estate	Monday, 2 p.m.
Abbeydale Infant Welfare Centre (Including Vaccination and Immunisation)	Abbeydale Community Centre	2nd & 4th Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Astwood Bank Infant Welfare Centre (including Immunisation and Vaccination)	Baptist Chapel, Hoopers Lane, Astwood Bank	2nd & 4th Mondays, 2 p.m.
Feckenham Infant Welfare Centre (including Immunisation and Vaccination)	Village Hall, Feckenham	3rd Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Greenlands Infant Welfare Clinic (Including Vaccination and Immunisation)	The Clinic, Greenlands Estate	1st and 3rd Thursday, 2 p.m.
Headless Cross Infant Welfare Clinic (Including Vaccination and Immunisation)	Methodist Chapel, Headless Cross	1st and 3rd Monday, 2 p.m.
School Clinic	Old Vicarage	Thursdays, 9.30 a.m.
Dental Clinic	Day Nursery, Bromsgrove Road	By Appointment
Ante-natal Clinic	Old Vicarage	Tuesdays, 10.0 a.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Smallwood Hospital	Mondays, 9.30 a.m.
Tuberculosis Clinic	Smallwood Hospital	Thursdays, 10.0 a.m.
Ophthalmic Clinic	Old Vicarage	By Appointment
Family Planning Clinic	Old Vicarage	1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 5 - 6 p.m.
Chiropody Clinic	Old Vicarage	By Appointment



The County Council continued to provide, on their own behalf or administer as Agents for the Regional Hospital Board, the above health services in the district. The Family Planning Clinic is administered by the Family Planning Association.

## **MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING.**

Three agencies provided the Midwifery Services for the district, (1) the family doctor—ante and post-natal care and home confinements; (2) the County Council—ante-natal clinics and district midwives; (3) the Regional Hospital Board—hospitals for delivery and treatment. The County Council provided nurse-midwives who attended general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.

## **HEALTH VISITING.**

The County Council continued to provide a Health Visiting Service. The Health Visitors serving the district are :—

Miss B. E. Cramp, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road.

Miss V. J. Crow, S.R.N., H.V., Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road.

Miss B. M. Gittins, S.R.N., T.B.Cert., H.V., Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road.

Mrs E. Jones, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., Shelley Close, Redditch.

Mrs. I. Lowe, R.G.N., S.R.F.N., H.V., Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road.

Miss M. Pike, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road.

Miss A. Potter, S.R.N., Q.I.D.N.S., H.V., 6 Church Road, Webheath, Redditch.

## **SCHOOL HEALTH.**

The County Council continued to provide an extensive school health service. School Medical Officers carried out inspections of children and regular Minor Ailments Clinics were held at the Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road, Redditch. Specialist, Ophthalmic and Orthopaedic Clinics were also held. A full-time Assistant School Dental Officer was available.

## **SMALLPOX VACCINATION, DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.**

The County Council continued to provide this service. It was administered by the District Medical Officer of Health.

## **POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION.**

An extensive programme was carried out in schools, factories, clinics, clubs and by general practitioners in the home and in their surgeries. The response in schools and the large factories has been very good. In some factories practically 100% of the available age group came forward.

## **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

Bacteriological and virological investigations were carried out for the Department by the Worcester Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Special investigations were carried out by the Central Public Health Laboratory at Colindale. Chemical analyses were carried out by the County Laboratory, Worcester.

## **HOSPITALS.**

The following hospitals were available to the residents of the district :—

1. Infectious Diseases ... Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen; Little Bromwich Fever Hospital; Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.



2. Maternity ... ..	Bromsgrove General Hospital; Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge; Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport; Avonside Hospital, Evesham.
3. General Medical and Surgical Cases	Smallwood Hospital, Redditch; Bromsgrove General Hospital; Royal Infirmary, Worcester and various Birmingham Hospitals.
4. Children's Diseases ...	The Children's Hospital, Birmingham.
5. Venereal Diseases ... ..	The General Hospital, Birmingham;
6. Aged Chronic Sick ...	Bromsgrove General Hospital; Blakebrook Hospital, Kidderminster; Avonside Hospital, Evesham.
7. Mental Illness ... ..	Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Bromsgrove.

## AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The County Council provided an extensive ambulance service throughout the County. A section operating in Redditch from the Cedar Road Depot served the district and surrounding areas.

## HEALTH EDUCATION.

The Council continued to subscribe to the Central Council for Health Education whose services were utilised during the year.

Many talks on health subjects were given by members of the Health Department to various organisations in the town. Particular concentration was made on cancer of the lung and smoking.

## HOME AND DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The service continued to function during the year. It was conducted through the agency of the W.V.S. for the County Council by Mrs. L. M. Brown.

Cases dealt with :—

Maternity Cases	...	...	...	...	33
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	90
Others	...	...	...	...	25

Six part time Home Helps were employed, there were also seven Home Helps employed occasionally.

## CARE OF THE AGED.

Home Helps are provided in many cases. A part time Health Visitor, Miss A. Potter has been allocated to old persons work; spending half her time on old persons and half on district nursing.

A voluntary chiropody service has been provided at the Old Person's Centre. Meals on wheels were distributed from the Old Person's Centre by the Women's Voluntary Service.

## WELFARE.

The County Council provided a welfare department in Redditch with an office at Park Road.

The staff comprised :—

Mr. A. H. Craddock	...	...	Welfare Officer
Mr. A. H. Grant	...	...	Welfare Officer

## REDDITCH DISABLED CLUB

I am grateful to Mrs. J. M. Hadley, S.R.N., S.C.M., Nursing Superintendent, British Red Cross Society, Redditch Branch for providing the following report :—

The Club at Redditch was opened on February 12th, 1958 in the billiard room of a private house. We started with fourteen members who were collected from their homes by members of the Red Cross in cars, as none of the disabled people was able to use the public transport. One or two members came in their own M.O.P. invalid cars. This has worked very well and as the club became better known people outside the Red Cross offered to help and these offers have been gratefully accepted.

Club meetings have settled into a regular pattern, we have had a regular handicraft teacher, basketry is the most popular of the crafts, especially amongst the ladies, and many useful and attractive articles have been made, from trays to hanging baskets, in many designs. Some of the more ambitious have now started advanced basketry and are making baskets without the use of the wooden bases. The men like making rugs and we are now starting them on smaller rugs. Stool making is another of the crafts taught and embroidery will soon be added as the club has been presented with a partly finished tapestry rug for use in the new permanent headquarters to be set up in the Dorothy Terry Red Cross House.

Entertainments at club meetings have been very varied, films are the most popular. We have musical entertainment at almost every meeting, either by piano playing, or someone to sing for us. Talks are enjoyed, we have had a diversity of subjects, from gold mining to the breeding of chi-hua-hua's, taking in guide dogs for the blind on the way. Tea is provided. A samaritan fund has been started and when anyone is ill, flowers and fruit are sent to the sick person.

We have parties at Christmas when every member receives a gift, and on our birthdays. We have also had a successful outing in the form of a coach trip and tea at Malvern. All these activities were greatly enjoyed. Due to the sale of the private house first occupied the headquarters were moved to temporary accommodation in an assembly room near by. The total membership is now thirty-five.

There is no doubt all members have benefited from these fortnightly meetings. Several of them say they live for club afternoons, and at least two of the lady members, who before they came to the club, hardly ever left their rooms, are now able to walk more comfortably and take part happily in club affairs. Friendships are formed and visits made to each others homes. One of the paraplegics took a taxi six and a half miles to visit a fellow member when he was in hospital. All of which points to a widening of interests for these people, who in many cases had very little entertainment of any sort. Many local doctors have remarked on the improvement in the morale amongst the disabled patients who attend the club. These doctors now tell us of other patients of theirs who would benefit from joining us, and learning handicrafts, etc. We are getting offers of help from several sources as we become more well known. All of which encourages us in this most happy and rewarding of Red Cross Activities.



## HOUSING

The housing figures for 1959 are as follows :—

Number of houses built by Council during year	...	11
Number of houses built by private enterprise	...	198
Number of houses under construction by Council	...	48
Number of houses under construction by private enterprise	...	88
Number of houses built by others (Worcestershire County Council, etc.)	...	1
Total number of post-war Council houses built	...	2,116

Population in relation to the number of inhabited dwellings :—

Year	Population (Estimated)	Increase or decrease in Population	Natural Increase (births less deaths)	Increase by Immigration	Units of Accommodation	Increase of units of Accommodation	Number of Persons per unit of Accommodation
1942	23,960				7,416		3.23
1943	26,390	2,430	207	2,223	7,437	21	3.55
1944	25,940	-450	335	-785	7,437	0	3.49
1945	25,470	-470	190	-660	7,486	49	3.40
1946	26,040	570	272	298	7,792	306	3.34
1947	26,680	640	197	443	8,054	262	3.31
1948	27,900	1,220	199	1,021	8,265	211	3.38
1949	28,440	540	206	334	8,536	271	3.33
1950	29,110	670	229	441	8,831	295	3.30
1951	29,400	290	225	65	9,073	242	3.24
1952	30,360	960	253	707	9,261	188	3.28
1953	30,490	130	248	-118	9,456	195	3.22
1954	30,710	220	230	-10	9,786	330	3.14
1955	30,930	220	196	24	9,845	59	3.09
1956	31,390	460	199	261	9,954	109	3.15
1957	32,220	830	263	567	10,439	485	3.01
1958	33,120	900	235	665	10,332	107	3.21
1959	33,840	720	224	496	10,570	238	3.2
1945 to 1959		8,370 (7,600)	3,176 (2,962)	5,450 (4,698)		3,298 (2,846)	

## MEDICAL PRIORITIES.

Eleven persons were granted housing priority on medical grounds for the reasons listed below :—

Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	3
Nervous Disease	...	...	...	...	1
Orthopedic Disability	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis and Lung Disease	...	...	...	...	5
					—
					11
					—



MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY.

The Dudley Mass Miniature Radiography Unit carried out surveys in Feckenham and Astwood Bank. These areas were not included in the main survey of the previous year, and so the whole of the area is now up to date.

Short visits were paid to the town quarterly, the unit staying one day and concentrating on referrals.

In conformity with the recommendations of the Adrian Committee where children under fifteen and pregnant women needed to be X-rayed, full size films were used instead of miniatures.

TOTAL PERSONS EXAMINED IN 1959			
	Male	Female	Total
Quarterly Referred Sessions	270	366	636
Astwood Bank and Feckenham Surveys	156	200	356

	Number Examined	Occasional Supervision needed	Close Supervision or treatment at clinic needed	Tubercle Bacilli Present	Prevalence per 1,000 Requiring Close Clinic Supervision or treatment
Quarterly Referred Session	636	2	3	2	4.7
Astwood Bank and Feckenham Surveys	356	—	—	—	—

NON-TUBERCULOSIS ABNORMALITIES DISCOVERED

	Number Examined	Referred to Clinic or Hospital	Others	Total
Quarterly Referred Sessions	636	2	3	5
Astwood Bank and Feckenham	356	7	1	8

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.  
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1959.**

Disease	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	—	1	3	3	5	18	1	2	—	—	—	33
Measles ...	9	29	38	29	50	143	2	—	—	—	—	300
Whooping Cough ...	—	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Dysentery ...	3	3	5	9	3	18	4	3	3	2	—	53
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Primary Pneumonia ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	3	11
Virus Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Influenzal Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	1	5	3	2	15
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	2	8
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals	13	35	48	45	58	180	8	13	15	9	8	432

## **PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.**

I am pleased to be able to report that outbreaks of communicable diseases during the year were only on a small scale and at no time reached a size large enough to cause any undue concern.

### **Poliomyelitis.**

Two cases were reported during the year but on detailed investigation proved to be other infections, not poliomyelitis.

### **Dysentery.**

Sporadic cases and limited outbreaks of Sonne dysentery occurred through the year. Fifty-three of these were notified and others were discovered on investigation. A small outbreak at the Beoley Road Nursery produced sixteen cases and eighteen carriers. This fortunately occurred just before the half term recess and it was not difficult to clear up.

Due to the mild course the disease usually runs, some laxity has crept into notification, also many mild cases fail to seek medical advice. It is essential for dealing with an outbreak that all cases are notified in order to get a clear picture of the extent and distribution of the outbreak. It is essential that bacteriological diagnosis is established at the first opportunity. We have had experience of poliomyelitis, typhoid and influenza presenting closely after one another with very similar early symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting at the same time as an outbreak of gastro-intestinal infection. The results of jumping to obvious conclusions when a particular disease is prevalent and reaching a wrong diagnosis could be very serious.

Restrictions placed upon carriers and repeated clearance swabbing is limited to instances where special circumstances exist and is not generally done in all cases. For example, special consideration has to be taken of infants and school children, elderly and infirm, pregnant women nearing delivery, institution cases, e.g. nursery outbreaks, food handlers, mental defectives and problem families and persons waiting to enter hospital for surgical operations. Health education in relation to toilet hygiene, hand washing and food preparation can only be directed effectively to the right quarter when a good overall picture of an outbreak is possessed.

Except where numbers are unduly high, as in the case of a very large outbreak, each notified case and each suspected case coming to light is visited from the Health Department. Where bacteriological diagnosis has not been made this is undertaken and where indicated by the history, contacts are investigated. Selected cases and selected carriers are followed up and excluded from food handling, nurseries and schools, until three successive negative swabs are obtained. Advice on hygiene is given at every opportunity of contact with the persons involved, particular stress being laid on hand washing.

### **Influenza.**

During the latter few days of January and the month of February the town was affected by an epidemic of Influenza. By February 10th the returns for influenzal conditions made to the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance had increased by 300%.

Two types of influenza occurred, Virus A and Virus B. Virus A influenza was similar but not identical with the Asian Type Virus A influenza which swept the world at the end of 1957. Unfortunately the vaccine produced for this latter type of influenza was of no avail in protecting against this new Virus A outbreak. In general this is the main problem which is met in attempting to immunise against influenza. Vaccines are very effective in protecting against the type of disease for which they are prepared but each year the virus appears to change slightly in such a way that previous vaccines are ineffective. The infections occurring during this epidemic on the whole were milder than the Asian epidemic. A typical feature of this particular outbreak was the prolonged debility following even brief illness. For example a person may have been out of bed after



only two or three days and yet not fully recovered by three weeks after. The two types of influenza appeared simultaneously. The number of cases rose rapidly over the first three weeks and then dropped off. All age groups have been affected, children more with Virus A and adults more with the Virus B.

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The “Immunisation State” of Redditch children on December 31st, 1959 was as follows :—

(1958 figures in brackets).

Year of Birth Age	1959 Under 1	1955—58 1—4	1950—54 5—9	1945—49 10—14	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster :					
A. 1955—1959 ...	118	1,772	2,380	110	4,380
(1954—1958) ...	—	(1,743)	(2,331)	(131)	(4,276)
B. 1954 or earlier ...	—	—	536	2,762	3,298
(1953 or earlier) ...	—	—	(589)	(2,844)	(3,433)
No. of Births ...	554				

The number of children immunised during the year was as follows :—

	1959	1958	1957	1956
Primary Immunisations :				
Under 5 years old ...	524	466	399	473
5—14 years old ...	29	16	8	14
Reinforcing “Booster” Injections ...	387	397	321	448

## Vaccination.

NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED OR RE-VACCINATED DURING 1959.						
AGE AT DATE OF VACCINATION	Under 1	1	2—4	5—14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	368 (395)	15 (11)	10 (9)	8 (17)	— —	401 (432)
Number Re-Vaccinated	—	—	—	— (8)	14 —	14 (8)

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

**TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY  
DURING 1959.**

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4—	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
25—	3	2	0	0	1	2	0	0
35—	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
45—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55—	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
65 & over	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Totals	9 (9)	9 (7)	1 (1)	0 (0)	5 (2)	2 (0)	1 (0)	0 (1)

The number of cases on the register on 31st December, 1959 was :—

	M.	F.	Total
Pulmonary	141	93	234
Non-Pulmonary	7	8	15
Total	148	101	249

Total on December 31st, 1958
221
15
236

## SEWAGE AND REFUSE COMPOSTING SCHEME.

In order to ease the sludge drying difficulties at Ipsley Main Sewage Works, caused by an accumulation of an excess of sludge at the plant which is of inadequate size for the town, also to lessen the quantity of refuse to be tipped, the possibility of a composting scheme was investigated. The whole investigation lasted from 1955 until 1959 when it was decided finally to abandon the scheme.

The proposal was to mix sorted and sifted refuse with raw wet sludge in a rotating drum and allow aerobic fermentation to take place, the temperature being controlled between 120°F and 130°F by ventilation. It is easy to be wise after the event but it was not realised in the initial stages how involved were the many aspects of the subject. It was not until the last year when the engineering details were nearing completion that the Health Department was called.

When the possible health hazards were investigated it soon became apparent that a much higher working temperature would be essential and it would be highly desirable to install a final sterilising process. The suggestion that seemed most suitable was to autoclave the compost and use the pressure to extrude the final product in a dried pellet form. The extra cost of this, plus the alteration in heating, dust extraction and ventilation system necessary to ensure healthy working conditions for the workmen began to make the scheme considerably more expensive than was originally thought. It soon became clear that the numbers of staff envisaged initially would be quite inadequate. With a manufacturing process dealing with human excreta and refuse as its' raw materials, no chance could be risked of having anything go wrong due to inadequate staffing.

When the health aspects of the process were dealt with the question of marketing was examined. It was soon discovered that the final product would be almost completely unsaleable.

As a necessary stage of investigating the use of the proposed compost detailed chemical analyses were carried out and soil chemistry experts were consulted. It was soon found that the content of toxic metals in the Redditch sewage was so high as to render the sludge and the compost practically valueless. Cases of plant damage from the sludge had been reported and with the new information available the decision was taken to stop supplying sludge from the Ipsley Works for the public to use for agricultural and horticultural purposes. The metals responsible were iron, zinc, copper, nickel and chromium. With multiple scattered industries it appeared an almost insuperable problem adequately and economically to free the sludge from this contamination.

The technical details of an investigation of this sort are involved. I am very grateful for the help and expert advice received, much of which came from foreign Universities and health engineering departments overseas. I am particularly appreciative of the help offered by the Public Health Laboratory Service, and the research and technical departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

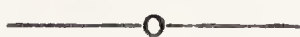


# ***ANNUAL REPORT***

of the

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR**

# REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1959.



To the Chairman and Members of the  
Redditch Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my twenty-first annual report and details of inspections made and improvements effected are as follows :—

## INSPECTIONS.

Accumulations Found	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Animals Kept	—	Piggeries	...	...	...	...	23
	—	Fowls, Pigeons, etc.	...	...	...	...	17
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	479
Cottagers' Pigs	...	No. of notifications of slaughter	...	...	...	...	2
	—	No. of pigs inspected	...	...	...	...	2
Drainage	...	No. of drains found choked	...	...	...	...	47
	—	No. of drains found defective	...	...	...	...	33
	—	No. of drains tested	...	...	...	...	143
	—	Visits to work in progress	...	...	...	...	162
	—	Visits to premises re cesspools	...	...	...	...	84
Dwelling Houses	...	No. inspected re repairs	...	...	...	...	519
	—	Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	916
	—	No. inspected re overcrowding	...	...	...	...	19
	—	No. found dirty	...	...	...	...	2
	—	No. found verminous (Premises)	...	...	...	...	15
	—	No. found verminous (Persons)	...	...	...	...	1
	—	Visits re pail closet conversions	...	...	...	...	133
	—	No. of systematic inspections	...	...	...	...	234
Rodent Control	...	No. of premises visited	...	...	...	...	1785
	—	No. of premises found infested	...	...	...	...	540
	—	Total number of visits	...	...	...	...	4819
Infectious Diseases	...	Visits re Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	23
	—	Visits re Diphtheria...	...	...	...	...	—
	—	Visits re Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	751
Factories	...	With mechanical power	...	...	...	...	113
	—	Without mechanical power...	...	...	...	...	33
	—	Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	10
	—	Other Premises	...	...	...	...	15
Food Premises	...	Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	72
	—	Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	474
	—	Confectioners	...	...	...	...	11
	—	Market	...	...	...	...	35
	—	Dairies	...	...	...	...	14
	—	Fishmongers and Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	64
	—	Greegrocers and Grocers	...	...	...	...	82
	—	Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	17
	—	Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	47
	—	Ice Cream Samples taken	...	...	...	...	16
	—	Preparation of potted meat, etc.	...	...	...	...	8
	—	Restaurants, Cafe Kitchens and Factory	...	...	...	...	...
		Canteens	...	...	...	...	64
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Smoke Abatement	...	No. of observations made	...	...	...	...	65
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	70
Water Supplies	...	Visits to premises re wells	...	...	...	...	17
	—	No. of samples taken	...	...	...	...	10

Local Authority									
Premises	...	Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	134
—	—	Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
—	—	Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
—	—	Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
—	—	Samples of water taken from Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
—	—	Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	581
Total number of inspections									10,428

## IMPROVEMENTS.

Houses generally repaired	...	...	...	...	...	76
Wash-houses repaired	...	...	...	...	...	14
Water closets repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	18
Pail closts converted to water closets	...	...	...	...	...	8
Pail closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Waste water closets abolished	...	...	...	...	...	3
Trough closets converted to water closets	...	...	...	...	...	—
Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Verminous premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	15
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	20
Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	13
Wells abolished and mains supplies laid on	...	...	...	...	...	—
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	...	14
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dustbins provided (by owners)	...	...	...	...	...	78
Dustbins provided (by Council)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	39

## WATER SUPPLIES.

Water is supplied throughout the district by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Co. Two samples of mains water were taken for analysis which were satisfactory.

Of the 10,570 occupied premises in the district 99.2% have mains supply and only 79 houses are using wells. No wells were abolished during the year.

Details of water main extensions during the year are as follows :—

Tennyson Road, Headless Cross	550 yards	4 inch main.
“ “ “ “ “ “	48 yards	3 inch main.
Mason Road, Headless Cross	310 yards	4 inch main.
“ “ “ “ “ “	115 yards	3 inch main.
Harport Road, Redditch	400 yards	3 inch main.
Heathfield Road, Redditch	125 yards	4 inch main.
Millsbro' Road, Redditch	100 yards	6 inch main.
“ “ “ “ “ “	45 yards	4 inch main.
Forge Mill Road, Redditch	200 yards	3 inch main.
Lanehouse Farm, Hunt End	126 yards	3 inch main.
St. Peters Estate, Crabbs Cross	240 yards	3 inch main.
Yvonne Road, Crabbs Cross	100 yards	3 inch main.
Cedar View, Redditch	70 yards	3 inch main.
Dark Lane, Astwood Bank	40 yards	3 inch main.
Peakman Street, Redditch	82 yards	3 inch main.
Crabbs Cross Lane, Redditch	20 yards	3 inch main.
Rectory Road, Headless Cross	60 yards	2 inch main.



FOOD PREMISES.

There are in the urban area 328 food premises, details of which are as follows :—

	No.	No. of inspections
Slaughterhouse ... ..	1	474
Butcher's shops ... ..	33	72
Restaurants and cafes ... ..	16	41
Factory Canteens ... ..	12	23
Confectioners ... ..	9	11
Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers	29	47
Fishmongers & Fried Fish Shops	17	64
Bakehouses ... ..	8	10
Market ... ..	1	35
Dairies ... ..	2	14
Greengrocers and Grocers ...	134	82
Licensed Premises ... ..	66	17
Total	328	890

MILK SUPPLY.

The register contains 25 distributors two of which have registered dairies. These dairies are used for depots only and no pasteurised or sterilised milk is processed in the urban district. At one farm only tuberculin tested milk is bottled on the premises, the remainder of the milk produced in the area is taken to dairies outside the urban district. The Redditch Urban District was included in a "specified area" from 1st October, 1954.

Fifteen samples of milk (5 pasteurised, 1 tuberculin tested, 4 T.T. pasteurised and 5 sterilised) were taken for examination. Satisfactory reports were received in respect of all the samples.

Licences granted during the year for the sale of designated milk were as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	20
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	23
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	23

The following is a list of foodstuffs surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

Tinned Fish	...	...	...	72 tins
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	42 tins
Tinned Ham	...	...	...	9 tins
Tinned Tongue	...	...	...	5 tins
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	255 tins
Tinned vegetables...	...	...	...	27 tins
Tinned tomatoes	...	...	...	116 tins
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	18 tins
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	2 tins
Creamed Rice	...	...	...	7 tins
Assorted Pies	...	...	...	153 No.
Faggots	...	...	...	87 No.
Cooked Meats	...	...	...	68 lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	56½ lbs.
Chitterlings	...	...	...	29 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	74½ lbs.
Fowl	...	...	...	18 lbs.
Skinned Rabbit	...	...	...	60 lbs.
Chicken Croquettes	...	...	...	13 No.
Fish	...	...	...	145 lbs.
Crumpets	...	...	...	70 pkts.

Assorted Cakes	...	...	...	...	10 No.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	82 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Coffee	...	...	...	...	4 tins
Biscuits	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Puff Pastry	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Jam ...	...	...	...	...	44 Jars
Sauce	...	...	...	...	3 bottles
Tinned Soup	...	...	...	...	23 tins
Squash	...	...	...	...	1 bottle
Pickles	...	...	...	...	2 jars
Cereals	...	...	...	...	2 pkts.
Fruit Juices	...	...	...	...	4 tins.
Margarine	...	...	...	...	1 lb.

## ICE CREAM.

One hundred and twenty-nine premises are registered to retail ice cream and of these four are registered to manufacture. During the year 47 inspections were made and 9 samples taken for bacteriological examination and 7 samples taken for chemical analysis.

### Bacteriological Samples.

There are four provisional grades for ice cream and grades 1 and 2 are satisfactory. The 9 samples taken were grade 1.

### Chemical Samples.

The minimum chemical standard for ice cream is 5% fat, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ % solids not fat and 10% sugar. Of the samples taken, the highest fat content was 15.1% and the lowest 8.8%. The average was 12.5%

In all cases sugar percentage was satisfactory. The highest total solids content was 38.6% and the lowest 32.7%. The average was 37.1%

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Of the 33 butchers shops, 12 are multiple concerns. The majority of the remaining butchers buy off the hook. Three local butchers slaughter at the Alcester Co-operative Slaughterhouse and two at the only licensed slaughterhouse in the area at Feckenham. A wholesaler also uses the slaughterhouse at Feckenham and supplies 10 butchers in the town. The remaining butchers buy from wholesalers at Stratford, Worcester and Birmingham.

100% inspection of carcasses is maintained of animals slaughtered in the district. I have reason to believe this also applies at the other three centres. Details of meat inspection is given in the following table.

890 inspections were made at food premises as compared with 970 the previous year. Visits to the slaughterhouse were 474 as compared with 466 the previous year and the number of animals inspected 19,248 an increase of 2,612.

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed (if known)	814	132	963	15324	2015
No. inspected	814	132	963	15324	2015
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	2	52	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	71	38	4	1979	92
Percentage of the number affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	8.72%	28.8%	.62%	13.2%	4.57%
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	7	—	—	27
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	.49%	5.3%	—	—	1.34%



## RODENT CONTROL.

Local authority premises, such as refuse tips and sewage works, are regularly inspected and treated when necessary. The analysis of Inspection and Treatment is as follows :—

### Inspections :

Number of domestic premises inspected	...	...	...	1369
Number of business premises inspected	...	...	...	247
Number of Local Authority premises inspected	...	...	...	101
Number of farms inspected	...	...	...	68
Total number of premises inspected				1785

### Infestations Found :

Total number of infestations found	...	...	...	540
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

### Analysis of Infestations :

Number of infestations found (Rats) (Major)	...	...	16
Number of infestations found (Rats) (Minor)	...	...	480
Total number of infestations of rats found			496
Number of infestations found (Mice) (Major)	...	...	8
Number of infestations found (Mice) (Minor)	...	...	36
Total number of infestations of mice found			44

### Treatment :

Number of first treatments	...	...	...	509
Number of second treatments	...	...	...	5
Total number of treatments				514
Total number of visits for treatment				3034

### Analysis of First Treatments :

Number of first treatments (Rats) (Major)	...	...	...	16
Number of first treatments (Rats) (Minor)	...	...	...	459
Number of first treatments (Mice) (Major)	...	...	...	8
Number of first treatments (Mice) (Minor)	...	...	...	26
Total number of treatments (Rats and Mice)				509

### Sewer Maintenance Treatment :

Number of sewer maintenance treatments	...	...	...	2
Number of manholes baited (first treatment)	...	...	...	175
Number of manholes baited (second treatment)	...	...	...	148
Total number of manholes baited				323

### Analysis of First Treatment :

Bait Base : Damp Sausage Rusk and Arsenious Oxide (10%)			
Number of manholes test baited (10% of manholes not included in previous treatment) :	...	...	74
Number of manholes baited (actual treatment)	...	...	175
Number of manholes showing prebait take	...	...	63
Number of manholes showing complete prebait take	...	...	38
Number of manholes showing partial prebait take	...	...	25

### Analysis of Second Treatment :

Bait Base : Bread Mash with 2½% Zinc Phosphide.			
Number of manholes baited (actual treatment)	...	...	148
Number of manholes showing prebait take	...	...	85
Number of manholes showing complete prebait take	...	...	59
Number of manholes showing partial prebait take	...	...	26

## SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Number of pail closets converted to water closets ... .. 8

Analysis of sanitary accommodation at the end of 1959 :

Water closets	...	...	...	10,477
Automatically flushed W.C.'s	...	...	...	20
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	7
Pail Closets	...	...	...	164
Earth Closets	...	...	...	17

## RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

The main purpose of this Act is to improve the standard of cleanliness of fillings used in upholstery and for the registration of premises where this work is carried out. It does not apply to the remaking or reconditioning of furniture. When the act came into operation in August, 1951, two premises were registered under these provisions. They have since ceased to manufacture furniture and are not now subject to the provisions of this Act.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Details of Licenses issued during the year in accordance with section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, are as follows :—

Site	Site Occupier.	Occupier of Moveable Dwelling.
Adjoining 32, Yvonne Rd.	H. E. Quinney, The Rough, Headless Cross.	Mrs. R. E. Hodges
Astwood Bank Farm	J. Shirley-Priest, Astwood Bank Farm.	Mr. J. Palmer
Bordesley Lodge Farm Birmingham Road	T. Dickenson, Bordesley Lodge Farm.	Mr. G. Oakley

It will be noted that only one caravan is occupied on each site.

## HOUSING.

During the year 44 houses were represented as unfit for human habitation :—

### Clearance Areas :

Edward Street Clearance Area No. 1	...	6 houses
Edward Street Clearance Area No. 2	...	13 houses
Edward Street Clearance Area No. 3	...	20 houses

These houses were confirmed without modification.

### Individual Houses :

Love Lyne Cottage	...	1 house
Daisy Cottage, Webheath	...	1 house
592/4 Evesham Road, Crabbs Cross	...	2 houses
10 Windsor Street	...	1 house

(Closing order made on first floor of outbuilding)

During the year 60 houses were demolished as follows :—

### Clearance Area :

Walford Street	...	36 houses
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### Individual houses :

Ipsley Street	...	11 houses
Grove Square	...	6 houses
Smallwood Arch	...	4 houses
Daisy Cottage, Webheath	...	1 house
592/4 Evesham Road, Crabbs Cross	...	2 houses

## INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	519
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	916

(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	234
(2)	(b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose	234
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	39
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	76

#### REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	31
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#### ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	<b>Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957.</b>		
	(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
	(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a)	By Owners	Nil.
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(b)	<b>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</b>		
	(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	45
	(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a)	By Owners	45
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(c)	<b>Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957.</b>		
	(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
	(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
	(3)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	24
(d)	<b>Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957.</b>		
	(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.

#### HOUSING ACT, 1957, PART IV, OVERCROWDING.

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year...	8
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	9
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	61
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil.
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil.
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil.
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil.



## FACTORIES.

### 1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities ... ..	47	31	—	—
(2) Factories not in- cluded in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Auth- ority ... ..	279	101	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises	9	21	—	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions where instituted  (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	6	6	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	5	5	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outworkers) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. H. CHAMPION,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

**Reasons for Application  
for Delegation of  
Health and Welfare Functions**



# **Reasons for Application for Delegation by the Worcestershire County Council of Health and Welfare Functions under Part 111 of the Local Government Act, 1958.**

**Presented by the Urban District Council, 1958 to the Minister of Health.**

- 1 The Redditch Urban District is the largest Urban District in area and population in Worcestershire. Its area is 12,059 acres and its present population according to the Registrar General's estimate is 33,120. In fact it is believed the population is greater than this. Its area has been extended on four occasions since the commencement of the century, but apart altogether from this it has grown progressively over the years and its industries have multiplied and become very diversified—now including light and heavy industries—in great variety.

The population growth is illustrated by the fact that, although no alteration of boundaries has taken place in the meantime, the population has grown from 22,400 at National Registration on the outbreak of the last war to its present figure.

2. It is not part of the Birmingham Conurbation, but is a town in its own right and in no sense a dormitory. It is separated from Birmingham at the present time by a Green Belt and from its earliest days its basic industries and skills—needle and fishing tackle manufacture—were something to be found nowhere else in the Country—certainly nowhere in the Black Country. Although it has a large area the original town with all its principal buildings are on a plateau in the north-west of the district, from whence it spreads along the ridge-ways like the fingers of a hand, with rural intersections coming in close to the town centre. It is thus very easily administered from the centre where the headquarters of all the services are based.
3. Some details are given below of the Council's activities over the last 20 years or so to shew that it is an efficient and progressive authority capable of tackling and managing major problems and undertakings :—

## **During the War.**

### **(a) Air Raid Precautions**

Redditch recruited and trained over 1,000 A.R.P. volunteers before the outbreak of hostilities and had a post or depot of every service manned on the night war was declared. It was one of the first five towns in the Midland Region to have registration for compulsory Fire Guard duty.

### **(b) Billeting and Housing**

Redditch was a reception area and the Council set up a billeting organization under the control of the Clerk of the Council which, during the war, billeted (in a large measure compulsorily) something like 10,000 people evacuated school children, refugees and war workers in vital war industries.

The Ministry of Works built two hostels, one for married couples and one for single persons (which have since been taken over by the Council).

The Council erected or completed 40 houses during the war. Although the town was not heavily bombed, over 1,000 houses were damaged and repaired.

### **(c) Sewage Disposal and Sewerage**

A scheme for the above, work on which was suspended at the outbreak of war, was re-started and except for certain sewers, not immediately essential, was completed (at the earnest request of the Ministry of Aircraft Production) during the war at a cost of £244,889 0s. 0d. The labour for this was largely recruited by the Council in Ireland and the workers were housed and fed by the Council on the job.

#### 4. **Post War Activities.**

##### **Housing**

The Council have completed over 2,000 dwellings since the war. Over a thousand have also been erected by private enterprise and other agencies, but these have also involved a great deal of work by the Council's staffs.

A separate Housing Department has been set up under a qualified Housing Manager to manage all the Council's house property.

(The Council have always been a progressive housing authority—they have operated every one of the Housing Acts and were one of the few authorities to erect houses for the working classes before the 1914 war and for sale to working class owner-occupiers between the wars).

##### **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

Many of the sewers omitted because of war conditions from the pre-war scheme have been constructed and the Council's Consulting Engineers have in preparation plans for an extension of the Disposal Works constructed during the war.

They are one of the first small authorities whom the Ministry have permitted to instal a plant for the composting of sewage sludge and house refuse and work on this scheme is now proceeding.

##### **Central Omnibus Station and Car Park.**

The Council have moved the Omnibus termini off the public highway by constructing a Central Omnibus Station with a Car Park adjoining on the site of demolished property near the town centre.

##### **Markets.**

The Council are the owners of the Charter Market Rights in the town. For many years the Market was held in the streets in the town centre. To obviate this impediment to traffic the Council have laid out two open air market sites on land adjoining the Omnibus Station. This has increased the popularity of the market and has from every point of view proved a successful venture.

##### **Libraries.**

The Council operate a Central and two Branch Libraries. The Central Library has been completely reconstructed, rebuilt and enlarged and entirely refurnished. The result is a very pleasing Library which has been enabled to give a much better service under an energetic and well qualified Librarian. Further improvements to this service are contemplated. The Librarian was one of two selected by the Urban District Council's Association to give evidence on its behalf before the Roberts Committee.

##### **Playing Fields.**

The Council has laid out and constructed the Abbey Stadium, a comprehensive scheme which provides facilities for athletic sports and games of all kinds.

It has already been the venue of several important athletic meetings and this year the Worcestershire Athletic Championships are being held there.

The Council have also provided a ground and headquarters for the local Redditch Football team which plays in the Birmingham League.

They have also improved many of the other playing fields in the town and have provided a new one at Feckenham.

##### **Industrial Workers Hostel.**

The Council took over this Hostel on its proposed closure by the Ministry of Works and have since administered it very successfully. The present number of residents is 252.

##### **Planning.**

The Council anticipated the provisions of the 1947 Act by commissioning and paying for at the end of the war a Development Plan for the Urban District by Professor Sir Patrick Abercrombie, Mr. Clough Williams Ellis and Mr. Lionel Brett. This plan was of great



assistance in formulating the provisions of the County Development Plan so far as they concerned the Redditch Urban District and many of its proposals were incorporated in the County Development Plan.

On the coming into force of the Act, the powers of the County Council under Part 111 were delegated to the Urban District Council.

There have been a number of appeals against decisions of the Council on planning proposals and it speaks well of the care with which the Council have exercised these delegated powers that apart from two unimportant proposals their decisions have in every case been upheld by the Minister on these appeals.

## **5. Existing Health Services.**

### **General.**

Before turning to the reasons which actuated the Council's application for delegation they would like to pay tribute to the co-operation of the County Council which has enabled the town to have a Medical Officer of Health who devotes the whole of his time to work of this kind and does not engage in private practice. This collaboration has enabled a high degree of efficiency to be maintained in the health services of the town. The Medical Officer's time as from the 1st April, 1959, will be divided as to 7/11ths to the Urban District Council and as to 4/11ths to the County Council.

The Council is of the opinion, however, that local government should be local and that they would be failing in their duty if they did not respond to the challenge the delegation sections of the Act presents to them. They consider also that in a rapidly developing industrial town, as Redditch undoubtedly is, specialized problems are constantly arising which can better be solved by an Authority with intimate knowledge of all local conditions. It is also submitted that local knowledge is essential if deficiencies in the service, which post-war conditions and the rapid growth of the towns industry and population are already making apparent are to be speedily and adequately dealt with.

### **Hospital and other voluntary Services.**

#### **Hospital.**

Redditch as a town has always been very health conscious. A voluntary Hospital was established here many years ago by benefactions under the Wills of two Brothers named Smallwood and on its being taken over by the National Health Service a very large sum, which had been raised over a period of many years by a voluntary Committee running an Annual Hospital Carnival, for its enlargement and improvement, was handed over with it.

#### **Nursing Associations.**

The District was also completely covered by voluntary Nursing Associations, until the coming into being of the National Health Service, which maintained a number of District Nurses in the different areas of the town.

#### **Ambulance Service.**

A voluntary Ambulance Service was maintained for many years by public spirited townspeople which was ultimately taken over by the Urban District Council and finally transferred to the County Council.

#### **Welfare of the Aged.**

Almshouses provided by the Brothers Smallwood, who left money to build the Smallwood Hospital, at present providing accommodation for 16, have been maintained by voluntary subscription for many years.

The Sons of Rest run by a voluntary Committee have for some years been provided with accommodation by the Urban District Council.

There are several flourishing Darby and Joan Clubs run on a voluntary basis and a branch of the Old Age Pensioners Federation.

Recently the W.V.S. in collaboration with the Urban District Council have founded a permanent Old People's Club in the town. As its contribution the Urban District Council provided the building on a



long lease and undertook to keep it in repair. The club provides facilities for social intercourse, baths, meals and games and a regular chiropody service, and thus provides a much needed amenity which the Council know is greatly appreciated by the old people.

The Club is regularly visited by the Medical Officer of Health and Health Visitors for the purpose of giving advice on health matters to the aged persons who are members.

#### **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

A Maternity Home, founded and maintained by voluntary subscriptions, operated successfully for many years in the town, but on the inception of the National Health Service it was considered too small to be taken over and, much to the regret of the townspeople, it had to close.

There has been a strong feeling in the town ever since that some provision of this kind should be made in the town and representations have from time to time been made on the matter by the Council and practically every organisation interested in welfare in the town.

#### **Accommodation for the Aged.**

The Urban District Council have been convinced for some time that there is a crying need for Part III accommodation in Redditch for old persons who are not chronically sick, but are no longer able to look after themselves in their own homes.

Recently the Urban District Council were instrumental in obtaining an offer of a commodious house and premises, in a most suitable location, known as "The Woodlands" at Headless Cross as a gift for this purpose, but unfortunately the County Council, owing to its existing commitments, felt unable to accept it. The Red Cross are now endeavouring to find a way to found a home there but this project is conditional on massive financial support towards the capital cost by voluntary subscriptions in the town.

#### **Disabled Persons' Club.**

Under the auspices of the Red Cross a centre manned by voluntary workers is operating in the town. The objects of the centre are by the teaching of simple handicrafts, entertainments and social intercourse to give these unfortunate people, who are unable to follow a settled occupation, new interests in life.

The Medical Officer of Health is interested in this project and is satisfied that the work done contributes materially to the greater happiness and mental health of the disabled people attending.

The extent to which voluntary effort has supplemented and filled the gaps in the Public Health Service has been summarized in the preceding paragraphs to shew first that there is and has been for a long time an informed interest in health problems amongst the general public in the town and secondly because the Council are convinced that this vast amount of voluntary local effort can be better stimulated and encouraged and certainly more easily co-ordinated by a complete Public Health Service locally controlled than by a Committee and Officials operating by remote control from Worcester, 19 miles away.

#### **Existing General Provision of Health and Welfare Services.**

The environmental services in the Urban District are administered by the Urban District Council Health Department, whose offices are situated in the Council House in Redditch. The personal services are administered by the County Council Health Department, whose offices are situated in the County Buildings in Worcester, nineteen miles to the south-west. The Medical Officer of Health for Redditch is also an Assistant Medical Officer on the staff of the County Council and so is able to achieve some measure of co-ordination of the services in the area.

#### **Premises.**

There is a main clinic situated near the town centre, consisting of a converted Vicarage with a building adjacent, which was previously a

Day Nursery. Plans are prepared for the conversion of this latter building to improve its suitability. Antenatal, Child Welfare, immunisation and vaccination, and dental clinics are held at these premises. The Clinic is served by the school health service, which provides 60% of its running cost. Flatlets are provided in the Old Vicarage for the Caretaker and his family and two health visitors. Next to the Old Vicarage is a block of midwife, district nurse houses.

There are four other branch Clinics covering the remainder of the Urban District. These are held in Village Halls and similar buildings. Sessions covering child welfare and vaccination and immunisation are held there.

Office accommodation is provided in the Council House, the health department issuing Welfare Foods and Vaccines. The associated clerical work is done by the Urban District Council staff, an appropriate reimbursement of the cost being made by the County Council.

A Welfare Office is provided in the centre of the town from which two Welfare Officers operate, each dealing with both mental welfare duties and general welfare. Half of the time of these two officers is spent within the Urban District.

### **Staff.**

In addition to a part of the time of the Medical Officer of Health, the County Council employ a full time assistant Medical Officer whose work is almost entirely confined to the Redditch area.

The County Council employ six health visitor/school nurses in the area for whom the apportionment of cost is 27.3% to the school health service. There are also eleven midwife home nurses in the area for whom there is a school health apportionment of 1.5%.

The work of this staff is at present not specifically allocated to Redditch, but in practice it works out that the bulk of their time is spent in the area except for visits of the nursing staff to Worcester, some nineteen miles away to report to their nursing supervisory staff, in occasions of relief duties for sickness and holidays and, in the case of one health visitor, visits to a clinic in the adjacent area, Wythall situated some five miles to the north east.

### **Staff Liason.**

For the purpose of education, and the discussion of difficulties, regular meetings are held at which attend the County Council health department staff in the area, plus the associated Urban District Council staff with the local ancillary and voluntary workers. These meetings are held at the main clinic, are attended by local General Practitioners and are a feature of the local public health organisation.

### **Local Administration.**

The local Medical Officer of Health is recognised as the representative of the County Council in all local matters of urgency or of specialised local nature needing to be dealt with on the spot. For example problem families, old persons and T.B. After-care.

Members of the Urban District Council are also members of the T.B. After-care Committee and of the voluntary committee of the Old Persons Centre.

Over the course of years closer and closer liaison has grown up between the various services and more and more interest has been taken by the local council. The time has now come when the Council feel that they are not only prepared but anxious to administer locally the health and welfare functions in their area. They feel the services can function more easily and can be improved by the introduction of local administration.



## **Conclusion.**

To sum up the Urban District Council consider that there are exceptional reasons for their application :—

- (a) it is considered that complete and co-ordinated control locally of all health services (except the provision of residential accommodation) would result in greater efficiency than can be achieved at present where control of the County Council's services is operated from Worcester, nineteen miles away;
- (b) the Urban District of Redditch with its distinctive industries, employing a great number of outworkers who work in their homes, with considerable rural areas surrounding the town is quite unlike any other County District in the County;
- (c) the Urban District of Redditch is a compact and completely separate area with green belts between it and Birmingham and the rest of the County and situate remotely from the County Centre of Administration on the edge of the adjoining County of Warwickshire;
- (d) the Urban District Council has already demonstrated that it is capable of efficiently administering delegated and other major powers and services.







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